

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 21, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 12-14, and 18-20 are rejected in the Office Action. Claims 3-5, 9-11, and 15-17 are objected to. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-5, 9-11, and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As noted below, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19-20 to include the limitations of one of Claims 3, 9, or 15.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19-20 under U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,847,702 issued to Czerwie et al. ("Czerwie").

Although Applicants believe these claims are allowable in their original form, to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 3, Claim 7 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 9, and Claim 13 to include the limitations of allowable Claim 15. In addition, Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to include similar limitations.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19-20, as well as the claims that depend from these independent claims.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 8, and 14 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable *Czerwie* in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0120853 issued to Tyree (“*Tyree*”). The Examiner also rejects Claims 6, 12, and 18 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable *Czerwie* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,154 issued to Wickham (“*Wickham*”).

Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14 and 18 each depend from one of independent Claims 1, 7 or 13, which have been shown above to be in condition for allowance. Although these claims include additional limitations that Applicants believe are not disclosed in the cited references, Applicants submit that these claims are at least allowable given their dependence on Claims 1, 7 or 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2, 6, 8, 12, 14 and 18.

CONCLUSION


Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Chad C. Walters, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6511.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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